



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett released the following statement regarding Governor Walker's claim that school tax levies are down:

"School tax levies statewide may be projected to drop one percent, but the tax levy related to the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP), is set to increase by 22.6%.

"After applying an offset related to High Poverty Aid, the 2010-11 MPCP levy was \$40.5 million. In 2011-12, that will increase to \$49.6 million – or \$9.1 million over last year. On next month's property tax bills, Milwaukee taxpayers will see a 22.6 percent in the taxes levied by MPS to support the program.

"Walker must have forgotten his no tax increase pledge to Milwaukee.

"Walker's budget decisions have resulted in 2,100 more students in the program this year at an increased cost to Milwaukee taxpayers of \$5.2 million. At the same time, Milwaukee's payment from the state's High Poverty Aid program is set to decline by \$3.9 million. That program that was designed to offset the taxpayer impact of MPCP for Milwaukee, but under Walker's budget its funding is now being shifted to other school districts. The combined impact of \$9.1 million hits Milwaukee homeowners at the worst of economic times."

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According to the Department of Public Instruction, the MPCP enrollment increased from 20,300 in the 2010-11 school year and to 22,400 in the 2011-12 school year. The MPCP now has the fourth highest student enrollment in the state.

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